



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) Significant Activities Report

On the Web at:
www.epa.gov/greatlakes

August 2004

IN THIS ISSUE:

- **Board the Northbound Train**
- **Summer Lakes Survey**
- **Pesticide Control Annual Meeting**
- **Air Deposition Loadings Report**
- **Encyclopedia of Chicago**

Board the Northbound Train

On July 15th, USEPA Administrator Mike Leavitt spoke before the International Association of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Mayors Conference in Chicago to report progress on the Great Lakes Executive Order. Leavitt told the crowd that he grew up near a Great Lake – the Great Salt Lake. It seemed so large to him until he learned that it would take 25 Great Salt Lakes just to fill



USEPA Administrator Mike Leavitt (center) went fishing on Lake Erie with Dick and Gus to get their thoughts on the problems facing the Great Lakes.



On one of his Great Lakes area visits USEPA Administrator Mike Leavitt (right) discusses environmental problems with Erie, PA Congressman Phil English.

Lake Erie – “and that’s the smallest of the real Great Lakes,” he said.

In an effort to see the Great Lakes up close and personal, the Administrator spent the last four months visiting all of the Great Lakes. He met with State and local officials, stakeholders, Tribes, and citizens. The goal was not only to inform them about the Executive Order, but also to listen to their views, to hear about their priorities, and ask for their help in this restoration and preservation effort.

The Administrator’s visits emphasized the fact that no one knows just how many federal, state, and private dollars are actually being spent protecting and improving the health of the Great Lakes Basin. Everyone agrees there is a need to do a crosscut inventory of Great Lakes programs and funding. Because of the Executive Order, that will now happen. The results will help to improve the efficiency and coordination of the work being



Representatives of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians explain the significance of wild rice in their culture to USEPA Administrator Mike Leavitt (standing) as they tour the Tribe's wild rice fields on Kakagon Slough near Ashland, Wisconsin.

done to insure that the federal effort supports what the people who live and work in the Great Lakes Basin are doing. Then, a region-wide action plan will be created to fill in any missing pieces, set a schedule, allocate resources to priorities, and provide for a cohesive management process.

One of the anticipated highlights will be a meeting of conveners that is euphemistically being referred to as a "Flags and Bagpipes" meeting later this year. It will be a gathering of principals – governors, mayors, cabinet members, Members of Congress, ministers and Tribal representatives – all gathered to declare their support of the Great Lakes and this regional collaboration. This celebration of the commitment to cooperate and collaborate will not only bring attention to this effort, but serve as the official kick-off of the partnership described in the Executive Order.

Administrator Leavitt in many of his remarks and conversations with people during his Great Lakes tour referred to this process as the "Northbound Train." "If you want to be part of protecting and improving the Lakes," he said, "get on board."

More information on the Executive Order is available on the Internet at: <http://www.epa.gov/greatlakes/collaboration/taskforce>.

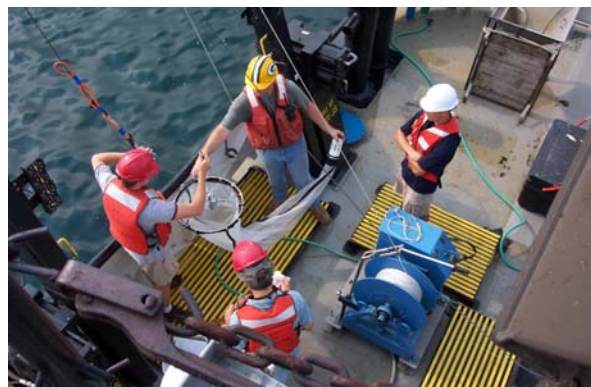
(Contacts: Vicki Thomas, 312-886-6942, thomas.vicki@epa.gov; or Nancy Guiden, 312-353-5006, guiden.nancy@epa.gov)

Summer Lakes Survey

The twenty-second annual Summer water quality survey of the Great Lakes ended on August 23rd. During the survey, the *R/V Lake Guardian*, with a crew of chemists and biologists aboard visited each of the Great Lakes, taking samples to assess their environmental health. The Summer survey focused on sampling the biological communities in the water (plankton) and the bottom sediments (benthos) in an ongoing effort to assess the ecological health of the Great Lakes and to search for new invasive species.

In addition to the regular Summer survey efforts, two additional projects were included:

- The first project, in Lake Erie, provided "ground truth" information to enhance the accuracy of satellite, remotely sensed, estimates of chlorophyll in the Great Lakes. This project was in conjunction with Dr. George Leshkevich of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric



Scientists prepare net to take plankton sample

Administration's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

- The second project, on Lake Superior, continued GLNPO's assistance to Dr. Judith Perlinger of Michigan Technological University in developing and testing methods for sampling persistent organic contaminants in the air.

GLNPO is responsible for monitoring the offshore water quality of the Great Lakes to evaluate water quality of the Great Lakes to evaluate water quality over time and identify any emerging water quality problems. Comprehensive water quality surveys are conducted in all five Great Lakes in both the Spring (when the water is cold and well mixed) and in the Summer (when the lakes are biologically active).

(Contact: Glenn Warren, 312-886-2405, warren.glenn@epa.gov)

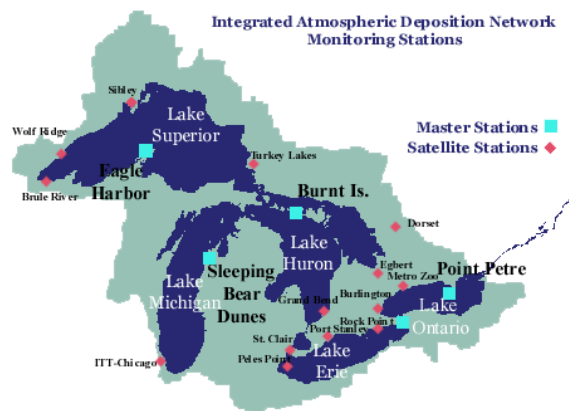
Pesticide Control Annual Meeting

GLNPO's Ted Smith spoke at the American Association of Pesticide Control Officials Annual Meeting on August 5th in Madison, Wisconsin. Ted gave an overview of USEPA's Great Lakes Program, with an emphasis on pollution prevention and monitoring of banned and current use pesticides. The American Association of Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO) is comprised mainly of staff from State Departments of Agriculture.

(Contact: Ted Smith, 312-353-6571, smith.edwin@epa.gov)

Air Deposition Loadings Report

The latest Integrated Atmospheric Deposition Network (IADN) Loadings Report, for data for 1999-2000, has been completed and is available online at: <http://www.epa.gov/>



Map of IADN air deposition monitoring stations

glnpo/monitoring/air/iadn/reports/IADN_1999_2000.pdf.

This report incorporates several new loadings calculation improvements. This important output of the IADN program continues efforts to estimate the amount of toxic contaminants entering the Great Lakes from the air. Loading estimates were developed for PCBs and chlorinated pesticides, as well as many other contaminants.

(Contact: Melissa Hulting, 312-886-2265, hulting.melissa@epa.gov)

Encyclopedia of Chicago

GLNPO's Karen Rodriguez is one of many authors featured in the new book, "The Encyclopedia of Chicago," a project of the Newberry Library and published by the University of Chicago Press. The book will contain more than 1,400 entries on all aspects of metropolitan Chicago, including essays, thematic maps, photographs, and photo essays. Karen's piece is entitled, "Shoreline Erosion." The 1,152 page book is scheduled for publication by the end of September.

(Contact: Karen Rodriguez, 312-353-2690, rodriguez.karen@epa.gov)

Upcoming Events**2004**

October 6-8	State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference: Toronto, Canada
November 30	Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy Stakeholder Forum: Chicago, IL
December 1	Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy Integration Work Group Meeting: Chicago, IL
December 3	Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Meeting: Chicago, IL

We welcome your questions, comments or suggestions about this month's Significant Activities Report. To be added to or removed from the Email distribution of the Significant Activities Report, please contact Tony Kizlauskas, 312-353-8773, kizlauskas.anthony@epa.gov.